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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Portuguese India

SUBJECT Sirigao Iron Mine of Goa

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1. "The first mechanized iron ore mine at Sirigao, among the best in Asia, came into operation recently [30 Dec 53]. Chowgule & Company Ltd controls the business. Part of the investment is a loan advanced by the Export and Import Bank of Japan through Messrs Kokan Mining Company Ltd. Maximum production of two thousand tons per day is expected shortly. The mine is situated very close to the river and 25 miles from the harbor of Marmagao. Transport of ore is done by 19 barges with a total capacity of 2500 tons. Their capacity will be increased to 6500 tons.
2. "Associated with the ore is a rock consisting of ferruginous quartzite of the Precambrian Dharwar series. Mineral stratum formed is somewhat shallow basin shaped. Due to secondary enrichment and leaching of the silica ingredient the ore has a spongy characteristic.
3. "Mines are open cut and are operated in benches. Churn drills and wagon jacks are used for vertical and horizontal drilling of holes of different sizes, and in each blast about two thousand tons of ore are extracted. Secondary blasting is done to make the ore suitable for loading by shovels. Two and ^{2 1}/₂ yards electric and diesel shovels are used for loading dumpers [30 Dec 53]. Grab cranes and small shovels are also used. Bull-dozers are used for collecting the ore on the main face. Fifteen ton Euclids and six ton Isuzu trucks convey ore from the mine face to the crushing plant one thousand meters away.
4. "The crusher has a capacity of 400 tons per hour. Dust and smalls below 2 cm go to the rejection bin and the rest go over the picking belt where laterite is handpicked and rejected. There are three ore bins with a capacity of two thousand tons. Each bin is fitted with 10 chutes which are operated by air winch. Each bin has a loading capacity of three thousand tons per hour and three barges can be loaded simultaneously.

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Special Features

5. "Extensive dredging and excavation near the ore bins ensures sufficient depth to enable barges to float freely near the bins.
6. "For repairs and overhauls of barges a 54 meters long slipway has been built. Ultimately it will also be used as a shipbuilding yard.
7. "Present mechanization in the mine is worked out with a flexibility to further enhance its effective productivity, depending on the improvement in the port at Marmagoa. The achievement of the present mine is due to the visionary outlook and willing cooperation of the big Japanese consumers, viz, Yamata Iron and Steel Works, the Fulji Iron & Steel Works and the Nippon Steel Tube Company."

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